Government approvals for (i) permission/ licence under 100% EOU scheme, (ii) foreign/ NRI equity participation and (iii) foreign technical collaboration were granted to set up two integrated steel plants in the above mentioned location to manufacture 10.0 lakh tonnes per annum (tpa) steel long products and 1.93 lakh tpa pig iron by MISL and 13.0 lakh tpa HR Coils and 5 lakh tpa pig iron by MKSL respectively. MKSL submitted a revised application in December, 1995 for substantial expansion to manufacture 22.5 lakh tpa HR flat products and 2.35 lakh tpa pig iron, which has also been approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

Capacity addition in Fertilizer sector

876. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of fresh capacity addition in the fertilizer sector in the country since the commissioning of the gasbased fertilizers plants along the HBJ pipeline;

(b) the percentage of capacity utilisation of the fertilizer industry since 1991-92 & the reasons for decline, if any, in the production;

(c) the percentage of rise/fall in the demand and supply of fertilizers since 1991-92;

(d) the comparative imports of fertilizers during 1994-95 and 1995-96 (till date); and

(e) the measures taken so far to make the fertilizer industry in the country self-sufficient?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) Prior to the commissioning of the first fertilizer plant on the HBJ pipeline in the year 1987-88, the installed capacity of fertilizers in the country was 70.33 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 22.63 lakh tonnes of phosphate. The installed capacity for 1995-96 is 93.06 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 28.22 lakh tonnes of phosphate.

(b) Year-wise production and capacity utilisation since 1991-92 are given below:

Year	Nitrogen		Phosphate	
	Production (in lakh MT)	% age Cap. Utilisation	Production (In lakh MT)	% age Cap. Utilisation
1991-92	73.01	88.5	25.62	93.0
1992-93	74.30	88.0	23.06	82.1
1993-94	72.31	83.9	18.16	64.3
1994-95	79.45	91.2	24.93	88.3
1995-96	87.60	96.7	25.77	91.0

There has been a consistent improvement in the capacity utilisation of the fertilizer plants in the last three years. Though there was a temporary setback in the capacity utilisation of phosphatic fertilizer plants due to decontrol of phosphatic fertilizers, the production has picked up and the capacity utilisation has improved.

(c) The demand of controlled fertilizers is assessed for each crop season separately in consultation with the State Governments and is reflected in the allocations made under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. At present, urea is the only fertilizer under control. The season-wise ECA allocations and cumulative availability of urea from 1991-92 onwards are given below:

(In Lakh Tonnes)

	ECA Allocation	Cumulative Availability	Percentage rise/fall relative to the corresponding season of the previous year	
			ECA Allocation	Cumulative Availability
Kharif, 1991	67.15	79.25		

Rabi, 1991-92	77.88	85.60		
Kharif, 1992	69.37	75.25	3.31	(-) 5.05
Rabi, 1992-93	80.01	93.50	2.73	9.23
Kharif, 1993	77.06	86.16	11.09	14.50
Rabi, 1993-94	95.33	96.54	19.15	3.53
Kharif, 1994	83.81	84.42	8.76	(-) 2.02
Rabi, 1994-95	101.09	102.75	6.04	6.43
Kharif, 1995	96.61	97.27	15.27	15.22
Rabi, 1995-96 (Upto 15.2.96)	108.23	89.26		

The phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were decontrolled w.e.f. August, 1992. The demand and supply of decontrolled fertilizers, which are governed by market forces, are reflected in their consumption levels. The year-wise consumption of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, in terms of nutrients, from 1991-92 onwards is given below:

	Phosphatic Fertilizers (In Lakh Tonnes)	% age rise/ fall relative to the previous year	Potassic Fertilizers (In Lakh Tonnes)	% age rise/ fall relative to the previous year
1991-92	33.21		13.61	
1992-93	28.44	(-) 14.36	8.84	(-) 35.05
1993-94	26.69	(-) 6.15	9.08	2.71
1994-95	29.32	9.85	11.25	23.90
1995-96 (Kharif)	15.02		6.06	

(d) The imports of major fertilizers during the period in question are given below:

(In Lakh Tonnes)

	1994-95	1995-96*
Urea	28.70	32.63
MOP	18.48	17.02
DAP	8.25	14.07

* The figures of import of urea are for the period April, 1995 to January, 1996. The imports of DAP and MOP pertain to the period April, 1995 to December, 1995.

(e) Of the three main fertilizer nutrients required for agriculture, namely, nitrogen, phosphate and potash, indigenous raw materials are available mainly for nitrogen. The policy of self-sufficiency in fertilizers, therefore, has relevance in the context of nitrogenous fertilizers, which are largely based on indigenous feedstock. At present, the country is self-sufficient to the extent of about 84% in the case of nitrogen.

The projects under implementation are expected to add a capacity of 15.79 lakh tonnes of nitrogen by the year 1997-98.

As regards phosphate, the constraints in domestic availability of raw materials do not permit self-sufficiency in production. Since indigenous rock phosphate supplies only meet about 5% of the total requirement, phosphatic fertilizers produced in the country are substantially based on imported raw materials and intermediates. Moreover, because of these inherent handicaps, the cost of production of indigenous phosphatic fertilizers is generally high in relation to the imported finished products. At present, the import dependence in respect of finished phosphatic fertilizers is to the extent of 13%. The projects under implementation are expected to add 0.31 lakh tonnes of phosphate production capacity by the year 1997-98.

There are no known and commercially exploitable reserves of potash in the country

and per force the entire requirement of these fertilizers is met through imports. Apart from direct application, imported potash is used by the indigenous manufacturers for making complex fertilizers.

Drinking Water Scheme for Fluoride Affected Villages

877. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Drinking Water Scheme for fluoride affected villages of Chanasma Taluka DF plant has been submitted by government of Gujarat to his Ministry for formal approval;.

(b) whether the formal approval has been given;

(c) if so, when the clearance was given; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in according approval of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The approval has been communicated on 27th September, 1993 and a sum of Rs. 25 lakh has also been released to Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Gandhi Nagar for this project.

Sale of Domestic Steel in the International Market

878. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1247 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th August, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is unprofitable to sell domestic steel in the international market; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) There is no authentic data about the cost of production of steel in other countries. However, bureau of Industrial Cost & Prices (BICP) has recently submitted a tour report on cost study of steel industry. According to this report, the cost of production of saleable steel in Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 1994-95 was lacs than the cost of production in Korea (Pohang Plant of Posco) and Japan (Kimitsu Plant of Nippon). The cost of production of saleable steel of SAIL during 1994 was less than the cost of production in USA, UK, France and Germany. The international cost competitiveness of individual products will, however, depend upon factors such as quality, freight, lovies and taxes, etc.

Viability of export depends upon the prevailing domestic prices, prevailing international prices, domestic demand and incentives available for exports.

भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड (सेल) द्वारा कोयले की खरीद

879. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:
श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल:

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड इस समय प्रति वर्ष किन-किन उपक्रमों से कोयला (गैर कोकिंग-कोयले सहित) खरीद रहा है और प्रति टन कोयले की दर का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड को अच्छी गुणवत्ता का कोयला नहीं मिल रहा है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप उसके उपोत्पादनों की गुणवत्ता भी प्रभावित हो रही है;

(ग) क्या भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड ने इस संबंध में संबंधित विभाग को सूचित कर दिया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में कब सूचित किया गया और संबंधित विभाग द्वारा इस संबंध में कितने दिन बाद कार्यवाही की गई; और

(ङ) सरकार ने भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण को अच्छी गुणवत्ता के कोयले की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव): (क) स्टील अथॉरिटी आफ इंडिया लिमिटेड कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की विभिन्न सहायक कम्पनियों नामत: भारत कोकिंग कोल लि॰ सेन्ट्रल कोल फील्ड्स लिमिटेड, वैस्टर्न कोल फील्डस लि॰, ए ईस्टर्न कोल फील्ड्स लि॰,